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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/539,010	06/15/2005	Hiroaki Yamada	Q88256	7398

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EXAMINER

IMAS, VLADIMIR

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 08/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/539,010	<b>Applicant(s)</b> YAMADA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Vladimir Imas	<b>Art Unit</b> 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12, 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki (US 6,443,779).

Regarding claim 1, Suzuki, fig. 1-5, discloses a cassette relay block attachment structure comprising: a cassette relay block 15 having a lock portion 21, the cassette relay block being inserted into a space surrounded by peripheral walls 22 on an attaching member 11, the cassette relay block being fixed by the lock portion and a locked portion 23. However, Suzuki discloses a locked portion disposed inwardly of an outermost wall surface of the cassette relay block and the lock portion located on the peripheral wall side of the attaching side, which is reversal to claimed cassette relay block attachment structure. It has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Einstein*, 8 USPQ 167.

Regarding claim 2, Suzuki discloses the lock portion and locked portion are housed in the projected area of a relay attached to the cassette relay block.

Regarding claim 3 and 10, Suzuki discloses the terminal housing parts 16 of the cassette relay block are arranged crosswise, and the lock portion is arranged in a range surrounded by crossing outer wall surfaces of the terminal housing parts.

Regarding claim 4, 11 and 12, Suzuki discloses the cassette relay block attachment structure characterized in that lock portion is a flexible lock arm.

Regarding claim 6, 16, 17, 18 and 19, Suzuki discloses the peripheral walls 22a on the attaching side are formed as a cassette frame.

Regarding claim 7, Suzuki discloses the cassette frame serves as one of the cassette relay block and other cassette electric parts mounting blocks.

Regarding claim 8, 20 Suzuki discloses the inner surfaces of the peripheral walls are housed in the projected area of the relay.

3. Claims 5, 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Polgar et al. (US 5,902,155).

Regarding claims 5, 13-15, Suzuki discloses all limitations except a rib provided on the opposite side to the lock portion side and for one of the cassette relay block and the peripheral walls and a guide groove for slide engagement with the rib provided for the other. Polgar et al., fig. 6-12, discloses a rib 52, 54 provided on the opposite side to the lock portion side and for one of the cassette relay block and the peripheral walls and a guide groove 36, 38. At the time the invention was made, it would have been to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide Suzuki's cassette relay block with Polgar's et al. ribs and Suzuki's attaching side with Polgar's et al. grooves to provide insertion and fixing cassette relay block into attaching side (column 4, lines 37-48).

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4. Claims 9, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Okabe et al. (US 6,375,517).

Regarding claims 9, 21 and 22, Suzuki discloses all limitations except the cassette frames having lock members, respectively are coupled to each other by the lock members. Okabe et al., fig. 1-6 discloses the cassette frames 24, 27 having lock members 12, 13, respectively are coupled to each other by the lock members. At the time the invention was made, it would have been to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide Suzuki's cassette frames with Okabe's et al. lock members to provide the cassette frames are coupled to a connection box body having locked members to constitute an electric connection box.

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vladimir Imas whose telephone number is 571-272-8288. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, T. Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

V/  
Examiner  
Vladimir Imas  
07/21/2006

  
TULSIDAS C. PATEL  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER